

Remarks/Arguments

Claims 1-17 and 19-21 have been amended. Claim 22 has been added.

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The Examiner has objected to applicant's drawings under MPEP §608.02(g) as failing to designate FIGS. 8-14 as "Prior Art." Applicant has amended applicant's FIGS. 8-14 to add a legend "Prior Art" as suggested by the Examiner, thereby obviating the Examiner's objection.

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The Examiner has objected to applicant's specification as failing to provide proper antecedent basis for the claimed subject matter. Particularly, the Examiner has argued that claims 2-3, 7, 9-10, 14, 16-17 and 21 make reference to a ratio of the mean value over the peak value, but in the specification the ratio is of the peak value over the mean value. Applicant has amended applicant's claims 2, 7, 9, 14, 16 and 21 to eliminate a reference to "a ratio" and to recite a comparison between the mean value and the peak value information, thereby obviating the Examiner's objection with respect to these claims and their respective dependent claims.

The Examiner has rejected applicant's claims 1, 4, 6, 8, 11, 13, 15, 18 and 20 under 35 U.S.C. §102(b) as being anticipated by the Takei (US 5,831,672) patent. The Examiner has also rejected applicant's claims 5, 12 and 19 under 35 U.S.C. §103(a) as being unpatentable

over the Takei patent. Applicant has now amended applicant's independent claims 1, 6, 8, 13, 15 and 20 and with respect to such claims, as amended, and their respective dependent claims, the Examiner's rejections are respectfully traversed.

Applicant's independent claims 1, 6, 8, 13, 15 and 20 have been amended to better define applicant's invention. More particularly, applicant's independent claim 1 has now been amended to recite a comparison part which makes comparison between brightness information of the mean value and the peak value and a selection part which selects either of the mean values of the color signals obtained by the mean value calculating part or the peak values of color signals obtained by the peak value acquiring part according to comparison result by the comparison part. Applicant's independent claims 6, 8, 13, 15 and 20 have been similarly amended. The constructions recited in applicant's independent claims 1, 6, 8, 13, 15 and 20, and their respective dependent claims, are not taught or suggested by the cited art of record.

More particularly, the Takei patent discloses obtaining the average values R_n and B_n for each region of a frame and calculating the average values R_{avr} and B_{avr} of the data associated with the entire frame. Col. 5, lines 36-60. The Takei patent also teaches performing white balance correction where a correction signal calculation section compares the average values R_{avr} and B_{avr} with reference potentials R_{ref} and B_{ref} and calculates correction data to make the values of R_{avr} and B_{avr} equal to the reference numbers R_{ref} and B_{ref} , respectively. Col. 10, lines 42-46.

The Takei patent further describes in column 15 three calculations of the signal calculation circuit 34. One calculation is to obtain average values obtained by white extraction to provide averages for an entire frame $R_{avr}(w)$ and $B_{avr}(w)$. Col. 15, lines 1-23.

A second calculation obtains maximum brightness color temperature values $R(Y_{\max})$ and $B(Y_{\max})$ of a region having a maximum brightness level, selected from a group of regions previously subjected to white extraction. Col. 15, lines 27-35. A third calculation, obtains the average value of the color difference signals for an entire frame R_{avr} and B_{avr} . Col. 15, lines 39-49. The Takei patent then describes a further calculation in which the calculation circuit 34 selects data having a minimum value, i.e., data which minimizes the white balance correction amount, of color temperature data $[R_{avr}(w), B_{avr}(w)]$, $[R(Y_{\max}), B(Y_{\max})]$, and $[R_{avr}, B_{avr}]$, and compares the selected color temperature data with the reference values R_{ref} and B_{ref} . Col. 15, lines 50-56. A final calculation is then made to calculate correction data which causes the value $R_{avr}(w)$, the value $R(Y_{\max})$ or the value R_{avr} to coincide with the reference value R_{ref} , and causes the value $B_{avr}(w)$, the value $B(Y_{\max})$ or the value B_{avr} to coincide with the reference value B_{ref} .

None of these calculations, however, equate to making a comparison between information of the mean values and the peak values or of selecting either the mean values or the peak values according to the comparison result. Instead, the comparisons are between average values or minimum values with reference values R_{ref} and B_{ref} in order to calculate correction data to make the average values or the maximum brightness values equal to the reference values R_{ref} and B_{ref} . Col. 15, lines 56-62.

Applicant's amended independent claims 1, 6, 8, 13, 15 and 20, and their respective dependent claims, all of which recite comparing information of the mean values and the peak values and selecting either the mean values or the peak values according to the comparison result, thus patentably distinguish over the Takei patent.

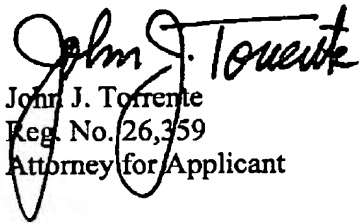
Moreover, the Takei patent does not teach or suggest the construction recited in applicant's newly added independent claim 22. More particularly, applicant's added claim 22 recites a peak value acquiring part which acquires peak values of video signals from all of a plurality of blocks. The Takei patent teaches that the brightness data is obtained only from "a region corresponding to the maximum brightness level, of the data group of regions subjected to white extraction." (emphasis added). Col.15, lines 27-30. Accordingly, the Takei patent does not teach or suggest extracting a maximum brightness value from all of the regions. Applicant's added independent claim 22, which recites such feature, thus also patentably distinguishes over the Takei patent.

In view of the above, it is submitted that applicant's claims, as amended, patentably distinguish over the cited art of record. Accordingly, reconsideration of the claims is respectfully requested.

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